

To: O'Neil, Kelsey[Oneil.Kelsey@epa.gov]
From: Magnotto, Elysse (SEN)
Sent: Thur 5/19/2016 3:41:14 AM
Subject: Re: EPA Draft Pilgrim Permit

Thank you, Kelsey for flagging us on this!

Elysse Magnotto-Cleary

Chief of Staff

Senator Dan Wolf, Cape and Islands

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On May 18, 2016, at 9:37 AM, O'Neil, Kelsey <Oneil.Kelsey@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Elysse,

Great to talk with you this morning. Thank you for sharing this information with the Senator. Here is the press release, which we will be issuing later this afternoon. The web link should be live early afternoon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me anytime.

Best,

Kelsey

News Release

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

New England Regional Office

May 18, 2016

Contact: David Deegan, (617) 918-1017

Draft Clean Water Permit for Pilgrim Nuclear Plant Outlines Practices During Plant Shutdown and Beyond

BOSTON –Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) released a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Mass. The draft permit proposes conditions to regulate the intake of cooling water and the discharge of heat and other water pollutants prior to the plant shutdown as well as after the shutdown, during the plant decommissioning process.

EPA is accepting public comments on the draft permit for 62 days.

The permittee, Entergy Nuclear Generation Company (Entergy), owns and operates the power plant, a 670 megawatt (MW) electricity generating station adjacent to Cape Cod Bay. The facility occupies approximately 140 acres and is located on the western shore of Cape Cod Bay, occupying one mile of continuous shoreline frontage. Commercial operation of the station began in December 1972, when the facility was owned by Boston Edison Company. In 1999, Entergy assumed ownership of the facility.

The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's existing NPDES permit was issued in 1991 and regulates the facility's withdrawal of water from Cape Cod Bay for cooling purposes, as well as the discharge of pollutants to Cape Cod Bay through a variety of wastewater streams. Wastewater regulated by the permit consists of condenser non-contact cooling water, thermal backwash water for bio-fouling control, intake screen wash water, plant service cooling water, neutralizing sump waste, demineralizer reject water, and station heating water. Additionally, there are five stormwater outfalls, which discharge stormwater runoff as well as stormwater that has accumulated in various electrical vaults around the property.

The draft permit contains effluent limitations and conditions for each of the outfalls as well as conditions regarding the water withdrawal from Cape Cod Bay by the facility's Cooling Water Intake Structure (CWIS). The intake requirements are consistent with a 2014 EPA Rule which regulates CWISs under the Clean Water Act (CWA) at existing facilities such as PNPS. To satisfy the CWA, the location, design, construction, and capacity of the facility's CWIS must "reflect the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impact." The operation of CWISs can cause or contribute to a variety of adverse environmental effects, such as killing or injuring fish larvae and eggs entrained in the water withdrawn from a water body and sent through the facility's cooling system, or by killing or injuring fish and other organisms by impinging them against the intake structure's screens. In addition, the permit contains thermal discharge limits which are designed to assure the protection and propagation of a balanced, indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife in and on the water.

On Oct. 13, 2015, Entergy announced plans to cease electricity generation operations at the plant no later than June 1, 2019. Entergy has advised EPA that some discharges and water withdrawals, though significantly reduced, will continue after the termination of electricity generation. Therefore, the draft permit has established permit limits that reflect post-shutdown operations and discharges as appropriate.

The draft permit is available for public review and comment. Any comments or other information for the formal public record must be submitted by July 18, 2016.

To review the draft permit, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/mass.html>

Kelsey O'Neil

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